

# LESS IS MORE

by Harry Dunn  
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Recently, a friend approached, in a manner quite aggressive,  
Asking 'Why do you use so many words in your little nonsense songs?  
Do you think it makes them look somewhat more impressive,  
A task which I'd consider most difficult and daunting'  
You could learn a thing or two from that new kid on the block '  
That nice young Mister Thornton.

His rhyming lines are short in length, but expressive, clear and pithy;  
Long wordy lines you won't get from Mister Thornton,  
It's not the size of his vocab that Mister Thornton's flaunting  
He's an economical word-smithy.

When he talks about a man,  
He describes him as 'a man' and what could be simpler?  
You, however, would describe him as a person of the masculine  
persuasion,  
Average height, fair complexion, probably Caucasian  
Or something roughly sim'lar,  
Exercising your limited vocabul'ry  
As if you were a fully paid-up member  
Of the local, sometimes vocal, Victorian constabul'ry,  
As you did on one occasion, last November.

If Mister Thornton needed to describe a spade  
He'd just call that thing a spade,  
But *you* would probably describe it as a digging instrument,  
Horticultural, wooden-handled, uni-functional, foreign-made;  
That's how *you'd* describe a spade!

And you could improve your style by studying *The Beatles*,  
Those famous English writers, all millionaires as well;  
Those chaps wrote wond'rous lines -  
Penetrating, brilliant and insightful, as anyone can tell;  
Things like that masterpiece of modern verse  
That poem most inventive, the one they called '*Michelle*'

*Michelle, my belle,*

*These are words that go together well,*      (*They don't write lines like this any  
more*)

*My Michelle.*

Learn to write like this - you could do a whole lot worse.

So, why can't *you* write words like that,  
Or perhaps some lyrics to embellish  
That *Norwegian Wood* -  
I bet, if he put *his* mind to it -  
Mister Thornton could!

So, I thought about this thing,  
Perhaps my friend was right,  
I do ramble quite a bit  
When I should be brief and trite:  
So, if brevity's the way to go,  
I'll now eschew my past excess  
And learn to call a hoe a hoe,  
It's time to re-assess.

I'll write lines of minimum length,  
Or should that be mini L,  
And gather wordless strength  
Like the Beatles with Michelle;  
I'll not waste a single word,  
My watch-word now is *brevity*  
So, dear reader, be prepared  
For shorter lines and fewer words  
But don't expect much levity!